7. Shri Pradipto Ghosh, Additional Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs

8. Dr. R.K. Pachauri, Director General, TERI

9. Prof. O.N. Srivastava, BHU

10. Dr. S.K. Chopra, Senior Adviser, MNES-Member Secretary

(e) The Committee will submit its report in six weeks.

Launching of Jatropha Plantation

2954. SHRI B.J. PANDA:
MISS MABEL REBELLO :

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have mooted a proposal for launching nation-wide Jatropha plantation to generate environment friendly bio-fuels to tap-non-conventional source of energy;

(b) if so, the details of the dream project and how far it would help to reduce the oil import bill; and

(c) the areas identified for plantation and by when the project would start showing results?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) and (b) A committee set up under the chairmanship of Dr. D.N. Tiwari, Member Planning Commision, on 'Development of Bio-fuel' has recommended large scale plantation of Jatropha curcas to generate environment friendly fuel which can be blended with diesel. At the initial stage there would be no reduction in the oil import bill as the blending of Bio-diesel produced with diesel would be 5% and diesel is only one of the various derivatives of crude oil.

(c) About 13.4 million hectare of area has been identified which has potential for Jatropha plantation in different States of the country. As per recommendations of the Committee blending of 5% bio-diesel in diesel would start from year 2006-07 and would reach level of 20% by the year 2011-12.